



# Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

## Contributing Chambers of Commerce

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Allegheny Conference  
Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership  
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber  
Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Detroit Regional Chamber  
Duluth Chamber of Commerce  
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership  
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Cleveland Partnership  
Greater Des Moines Partnership  
Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance  
Northwest Michigan Regional Chamber Alliance  
Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce  
Quad Cities Chamber  
Rockford Chamber of Commerce  
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce  
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce  
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Great Lakes  
Metro Chambers Coalition**  
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September 16, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
U.S. House  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs  
Chairman  
Water Resources and Environment  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall and Chairman Gibbs and Ranking Member Bishop:

Waterborne commerce is an essential foundation block of our national economy. It efficiently moves the commodities that serve as the basis of our goods producing sectors and is fundamental to the smooth operation of regional and national supply chains. Nowhere is water transport more important than in the Midwest and the Great Lakes, which depend on three great systems – the upper Mississippi River, the Ohio River, and the Great Lakes. These great waterway systems propel the merchandise exports of the Great Lakes trading area, which account for 30% of our nation's total.

For too long, investments in infrastructure have gone begging. It has been six years since the last Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization. We compliment you for your bipartisan leadership in crafting a strong, visionary, and fiscally responsible Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) – HR 3080. We urge its prompt consideration and passage - just as we did with the Senate's WRDA bill - and we urge both houses of Congress to work together to deliver a final bill for the President's signature by year-end.

The House WRRDA bill will update and modernize the maintenance, repair and construction of critical waterway system facilities in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner. It will provide recognition of the Great Lakes Navigation System as

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House  
Committee on Transportation &  
Infrastructure  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Water Resources and Environment  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House  
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September 16, 2013  
GLMCC Letter to  
U.S. House  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Regarding H.R. 3080

the single system that it actually is. It will provide critical resources for the repair of older facilities and the construction of new facilities essential to our nation's competitive position in the world economy. Too many locks and dams on our river systems are in dire need of repair and re-fit, and too many harbors and channels in the Great Lakes are in need of significant dredging. Our nation's waterways, as vital pathways for commerce, require thoughtful, visionary and bold action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Roman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joseph D. Roman  
Co-Chair, Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition  
President and CEO  
Greater Cleveland Partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Wolking, Jr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

Ed Wolking, Jr.  
Coalition Director